CCAA, available for public review and comment.

**Background**

Survival enhancement of permits issued for CCAAs encourage non-Federal landowners, including non-Federal operators holding easements on private lands, to implement conservation measures for species that are, or are likely to become, candidates for Federal listing as endangered or threatened under the Act, by assuring landowners/operators they will not be subjected to increased property use restrictions if the covered species becomes listed in the future. Application requirements and survival enhancement of permit issuance criteria for CCAAs are in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17.22(d) and 17.32(d). The joint policy on CCAAs was published in the Federal Register with the Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service on December 27, 2016 (80 FR 95164; December 27, 2016).

**Proposed Action**

The proposed action is the FWS issuing AEPCO a permit for covered activities in the permit area for up to 25 years, pursuant to the Act, section 10(a)(1)(A). The Permit would cover Sonoran desert tortoise “take” associated with covered activities occurring within the permit area.

The proposed AEPCO CCAA commits AEPCO to implement conservation measures to reduce threats and contribute to furthering Sonoran desert tortoise conservation on lands AEPCO uses while implementing covered activities within the tortoise’s Arizona range.

To meet section 10(a)(1)(A) permit requirements, the applicant developed and proposes to implement the AEPCO CCAA, which describes the conservation measures AEPCO has agreed to undertake to reduce tortoise threats, ensure that incidental take will not appreciably reduce the likelihood the species can survive and recover in the wild, and benefit Sonoran desert tortoises and their habitats.

Expected benefits include, but may not be limited to: Developing and delivering personnel and contractors a training and awareness program, along with annual refreshers to avoid and minimize Sonoran desert tortoise take; limiting the amount of new disturbance within tortoise habitat; providing early notification of new buffelgrass infestations to afford opportunity for buffelgrass management to improve Sonoran desert tortoise habitat, and; limiting taking habitat, eggs, and female Sonoran desert tortoises. Additionally, through the CCAA’s reporting requirements, the FWS will receive additional tortoise distribution data to add to the overall Sonoran desert tortoise knowledge base, and use it to further species conservation. Since the Sonoran desert tortoise is not federally listed, there is no regulatory requirement for AEPCO to implement a conservation program. Therefore, absent the CCAA, it is unlikely these benefits to the tortoise would be realized.

We will evaluate the permit application, associated documents, and comments we receive to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements of the Act, NEPA, and implementing regulations.

We determine that all requirements are met, we will approve the proposed CCAA and, should the species become listed as threatened or endangered under the Act in the future, the AEPCO permit under the Act, section 10(a)(1)(A), will become effective and provide Sonoran desert tortoise incidental take coverage through the remainder of the CCAA’s 25-year duration. We will not make our final decision until after the comment period ends, and we will fully consider all comments we receive during the public comment period.

**Public Availability of Comments**

All comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Requests for copies of comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, NEPA, and Service and Department of the Interior policies and procedures. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time.

While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

**Authority**

We provide this notice under the Act, section 10(c) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32) and NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq.) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Joy E. Nicholopoulos,  
*Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

[FR Doc. 2018–05590 Filed 3–19–18; 8:45 am]

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS–R2–ES–2017–N186; FXES11140200000–189–FF02ENEH00]

**Incidental Take Permit Application Received To Participate in the American Burying-Beetle Amended Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan in Oklahoma**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on a federally listed American burying-beetle incidental take permit (ITP) application. The applicant anticipates American burying-beetle take as a result of impacts to habitat the species uses for breeding, feeding, and sheltering in Oklahoma. The take would be incidental to the applicant’s activities associated with oil and gas well field and pipeline infrastructure (gathering, transmission, and distribution), including geophysical exploration (seismic), construction, maintenance, operation, repair, decommissioning, and reclamation. If approved, the permit would be issued under the approved American Burying Beetle Amended Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan (ICP) Endangered Species Act Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permit Issuance in Oklahoma.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, written comments must be received on or before April 19, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** You may obtain copies of all documents and submit comments on the applicant’s ITP application by one of the following methods. Please refer to the proposed permit number when requesting documents or submitting comments.

- **U.S. Mail:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species—HCP Permits, P.O. Box 1306, Room 6093, Albuquerque, NM 87103.
- **Electronically:** fw2_hcp_permits@fws.gov.
Applicant requests a permit for oil and gas upstream and midstream production, including oil and gas well field infrastructure geophysical exploration (seismic) and construction, maintenance, operation, repair, and decommissioning, as well as oil and gas gathering, transmission, and distribution pipeline infrastructure construction, maintenance, operation, repair, decommissioning, and reclamation in Oklahoma.

Public Availability of Comments

Written comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Authority

We provide this notice under the ESA, section 10(c) (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22) and the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: January 11, 2018.

Joy N. Nicholopoulos,
Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[FR Doc. 2018–05589 Filed 3–19–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of the Chief Information Officer

[OMB Number 1105—NEW]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Information Officer, Department of Justice.

ACTION: 60 day notice.